

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for monitoring network condition, comprising:  
a policy server operable to generate collection configuration information based on network topology information and at least one collection policy; and  
at least one collector operable to access the collection configuration information and operable to poll a subset of network nodes requiring monitoring according to the collection configuration information.
2. The system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the at least one collection policy defines the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.
3. The system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the at least one collection policy defines the Internet Protocol of the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.
4. The system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the at least one collection policy defines a device type of the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.
5. The system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the policy server is further operable to generate collection configuration information based on at least one collection instruction, the collection instruction defines what data is to be collected from the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.
6. The system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the policy server is further operable to generate collection configuration information based on at least one collection instruction, the collection instruction defines how data is to be collected from the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.
7. The system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the policy server is further operable to generate collection configuration information based on at least one collection instruction, the collection instruction defines the frequency to collect data from the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

8. The system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the policy server is further operable to generate collection configuration information based on at least one collection instruction, the collection instruction defines when to collect data from the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

9. The system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the policy server is further operable to generate collection configuration information based on at least one collection instruction, the collection instruction defines how to store data collected from the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

10. A method for monitoring a network of a plurality of network nodes, comprising:

receiving network topology information;

receiving a definition of a subset of network nodes from which to collect data and a definition of the type of data to collect;

generating collection configuration information in response to the network topology information, definition of the subset of network nodes and definition of the type of data; and

collecting data from the subset of network nodes according to the collection configuration information.

11. The method, as set forth in claim 10, wherein receiving the network topology information comprises receiving identities of the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

12. The method, as set forth in claim 10, wherein receiving the network topology information comprises receiving identities of active network nodes existing in the network.

13. The method, as set forth in claim 10, wherein receiving a definition of a subset of network nodes from which to collect data comprises receiving a range of Internet Protocol addresses of the subset of network nodes.

14. The method, as set forth in claim 10, wherein receiving a definition of a subset of network nodes from which to collect data comprises receiving a device type of the subset of network nodes.

15. The method, as set forth in claim 10, wherein receiving a definition of a subset of network nodes from which to collect data comprises receiving a predetermined criteria to define the subset of the network nodes.

16. The method, as set forth in claim 10, wherein receiving a definition of the type of data to collect comprises receiving an identification of a data type to collect from the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

17. The method, as set forth in claim 10, wherein receiving a definition of the type of data to collect comprises receiving a definition of a timing related to the collection of the data from the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

18. The method, as set forth in claim 10, wherein receiving a definition of the type of data to collect comprises receiving a definition of how to store the collected data from the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

19. The method, as set forth in claim 10, further comprising providing the generated collection configuration information to at least one collector operable to collect the data from the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

20. A system for network fault monitoring, comprising:  
means for receiving network topology information;  
means for receiving a definition of a subset of network nodes from which to collect data and a definition of the type of data to collect;  
means for generating collection configuration information in response to the network topology information, definition of the subset of network nodes and definition of the type of data; and

means for collecting data from the subset of network nodes according to the collection configuration information.

21. The system, as set forth in claim 20, wherein means for receiving the network topology information comprises means for receiving identities of the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

22. The system, as set forth in claim 20, wherein means for receiving a definition of a subset of nodes comprises means for receiving a device type of the subset of network nodes.

23. The system, as set forth in claim 20, wherein means for receiving a definition of the type of data to collect comprises means for receiving an identification of a data type to collect from the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.